



Eastern Snake Plain Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan

Implementation Progress

November 17, 2009



Implementation

- House Bill 264 approved by legislature and signed into law by Governor Otter April 23, 2009, approving the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan.
- Implementation Committee appointed by Water Board.
- Board extended contract with CDR Associates for facilitation services for another year.
- Moving into implementation phase.

Phase 1 (year 1 – 10) Plan Components

- Hydrologic goal of 200,000 to 300,000 acre-foot water budget change through the following measures:
 - Aquifer recharge
 - Ground water –to- surface water conversion projects
 - Demand reduction
 - Weather modification (cloud seeding)

Implementation Committee

Purpose is to develop consensus recommendations to the Idaho Water Resource Board (Board) regarding ESPA CAMP implementation on:

- Phase I funding collection mechanisms,
- Implementation criteria, plans and priorities,
- Early action projects, and
- Foundation for Plan implementation -- strategically coordinated, consistent and transparent

Implementation Committee Structure

- **Members:** Previous Advisory Committee members and alternates. Consists of representatives from the following: surface water users, ground water users, spring water users, cities, counties, business and industry, and environmental organizations.
- **Agency Participants:** Active role in Committee deliberation.
- **Water Resource Board:** Provide decision making authority regarding Plan implementation.
- **Board Staff (housed at IDWR):** Provide technical support.
- Several subcommittees (“work groups”) have been formed to assist with moving action items forward.

Phase 1 Funding as per Plan

- Irrigated Agriculture: \$3 million/yr (\$1/acre for surface water users and \$2/acre for ground water users)
- Idaho Power: \$1-1.5 million/yr
- Municipalities: \$700,000/yr
- Spring Users: \$200,000/yr
- Industrial, self-supplied: \$150,000/yr
- State: \$3 million/yr.
- Federal funds: pursue opportunities as available – have received AWEPP funding for certain plan components
- Legislation to enable collection of funds is being drafted for action by legislature.

Funding Collection Mechanisms

The legislation is still being drafted, but conceptually includes the following components:

- Counties would collect \$1/acre for all irrigated acres within ESPA boundary.
- State water districts that regulate ground water withdrawal would collect an additional \$1/acre for all acres irrigated by ground water within the ESPA boundary.
- Fees from Cities, spring users, and self-supplied commercial and industrial facilities may be collected through state water districts or other mechanisms.

Funding Collection Mechanisms (cont.)

- The participation by the power company is likely through a separate agreement with the Water Resource Board.
- Legislation would authorize retention of some percentage for administration.
- Legislation would authorize the Water Resource Board to undertake civil action to collect unpaid fees.

Aquifer Recharge Progress

- In 2009 about 104,000 acre-feet of recharge was accomplished during the early season.
- Late-season recharge is currently underway with an estimate of another 20,000 –to- 30,000 acre-feet of recharge.
- Planning is also underway for early-season 2010 recharge.
- Moving ahead with constructed recharge sites to increase capacity
 - Obtained right of way at Milepost 31 site
 - Evaluating enlargement of Egin site
- The CAMP goal is to continue the program and average 100,000 acre-feet of recharge per year.

Progress of Ground Water-to-Surface Water Conversion Projects

- CAMP goal is to accomplish 100,000 acre-feet of water budget change to the ESPA.
- Developing conversion project administration mechanism.
- Through the AWEPP program 14 small-scale conversion projects totaling 4,884 acres are currently under contract to be funded.
- Obtaining portfolio of water supplies for conversion projects
- Developing plans for large-scale projects
 - Hazelton Butte (8,000 acres)
 - A&B West (6,000 acres)
 - Others

Weather Modification (Cloud Seeding) Progress

- A feasibility study conducted during the CAMP process by North American Weather Consultants indicated scientific cloud seeding program could generate an additional 150,000 acre-feet in the Upper Snake.
- Idaho Power has indicated it would conduct the CAMP cloud seeding operations in the Upper Snake. Idaho Power already has the capability from conducting cloud seeding in the Payette Basin for the past several years.
 - Idaho Power is placing 10 remote cloud seeding generators in Upper Snake this coming winter, increasing to 35 after 5 years
 - Need to formalize the structure under which Idaho Power will be operating with respect to CAMP.

Demand Reduction Progress

- Through the AWEPP program 14 projects are currently under contract to be funded in the Thousand Springs area that are designed to reduce the demand for spring water.
- Developing a CREP Incentive Program (PERC) designed to provide additional funds to bring additional lands into the CREP program, and be used as a stand-alone program for lands that do not qualify for CREP (i.e. Power County)

Questions?